



**A Bengal Tiger snapped through a camera trap in the Sundarbans during a census last year.**  
PHOTO: COURTESY MONIRUL KHAN  
**Inset, Passur river Waterkeeper and Waterkeepers Bangladesh form a human chain at Mongla yesterday demanding steps to save the Sundarbans, the famous habitat of Bengal Tigers, and the Passur.**  
PHOTO: STAR

# Save tigers' habitat Sundarbans

Speakers tell Mongla rally marking World Tiger Day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Speakers at a human chain at Mongla yesterday demanded protection of the tigers' habitat Sundarbans and the Passur river.

They made the demand at the programme marking the World Tiger Day organised by Passur River Waterkeeper and Waterkeepers Bangladesh.

Mongla Government College Principal Mohammad Golam Sarwar said tigers frequently come out of the Sundarbans due to shortage of food and habitat and villagers kill them because of lack of awareness.

The number of tigers in the world is decreasing day by day, he said, adding that the International Union for Conservation of Tigers (IUCN) of the United Nations has already declared the tiger as an endangered animal.

In the last 18 years, 50 tigers were beaten to death in areas adjacent to the Sundarbans when they came out of the forest due to shortage of food, he said, adding that the apathy of the forest department towards protecting tigers is also to be blamed.

He said smugglers and national and

international syndicates are largely responsible for the elimination of tigers.

A painting competition for children, titled "Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarbans," was held at the auditorium of Father Rigon's Library at Mongla Government College. Fifty students from different educational institutions participated in the competition. After a short speech, Chief Guest Begum Habibun Nahar MP distributed prizes and certificates among the participants of the children's painting competition.

Among others, Kamruzzaman Jasim Professor Anwar Hossain, Shyama Prasad Sen, Pradip Adhikari, Lecturer Mahbubur Rahman, Lecturer Manoj Kanti Biswas, Lecturer Sahara Begum and Nigar Sultana Sumi spoke on the occasion.

A colourful rally, discussion and award distribution were also held on Mongla Government College premises.

Bagerhat Coordinator of Passur River Waterkeeper and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) Md Noor Alam Sheikh chaired the rally.

# Sheuli jumped off running bus to escape sexual attack

Says husband in case with police station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

To escape sexual harassment, a female garment worker jumped from a running passenger bus and was crushed to death under the wheels of another bus in Mirzapur upazila on Thursday.

Victim Sheuli Begum's husband Sharif Miah said this on Saturday while filing a complaint with Mirzapur Police Station over his wife's death.

A worker of a garment factory at Hatubhanga in the upazila, Sheuli, 28, hailed from Postkamuri Charpara village.

On Thursday morning, Sheuli died allegedly after falling from an unidentified run-

ning bus in the upazila.

Quoting locals, Sharif said roadside people heard Sheuli screaming on the running bus. The locals suspect that she was being sexually harassed.

She might have jumped from the bus to escape the harassment and was crushed to death under the wheels of another vehicle, Sharif said in his case statement.

Police are trying to trace out the bus as well as its staff to know how Sheuli fell from the running bus, said AKM Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Necessary steps will be taken after investigation, he said.



Sheuli Begum

# 212 children get Indian scholarships

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

The Indian High Commission yesterday awarded scholarships to 212 children of freedom fighters of Comilla.

The children received the scholarship cheques at a programme at Comilla Town Hall auditorium.

One hundred and ten students received cheques of Tk 50,000 each, 74 students Tk 20,000 each and 28 students Tk 24,000 each.

The Indian government initiated this scheme in 2016. Haji AKM Bahauddin Bahar MP was chief guest while Assistant High Commissioner Anindo Banerjee was special guest.

# EIGHT YEARS OF MILON MURDER

# Justice still elusive

MD NURUL AMIN, Noakhali

The family of murdered teenager Shamsuddin Milon of Companiganj upazila in the district is yet to see justice, eight years after the brutal incident.

His father Gias Uddin died in March last year, waiting for punishment of the killers.

On July 27 in 2011, agitated people of Char Kakra union in Companiganj beat dead six alleged robbers.

The same day, Milon was going to the upazila headquarters from his village home of Char Fakira. On his way, in front of Char Fakira Academy High School, a group of people handed him over to police, suspecting him as a robber.

When the police van reached Teker Bazar, a mob brought

him down from the van and beat him dead.

A couple of days later, a video footage of the brutal incident recorded in a mobile was published in the media and Milon's mother Kohinoor Begum filed a murder case in this regard.

Four policemen -- inspector Rafiq Ullah, SI Md Akram Sheikh, constables Abdur Rahim and Hemaranjan Chakma were suspended on charge of negligence of duty and a departmental case was filed.

After suffering punishment in the departmental case, they are now in service in different areas of the country while 27 men, arrested for involvement in mass beating, following detection by the video footage, came out on bail.

In July of 2015, OC Ataur

Rahman Bhuiyan, investigating officer of the Detective Branch of Noakhali, filed a final report before the court, seeking acquittal of 31 people including four policemen, who had been identified after watching the video footage.

"The court did not accept the final report and later ordered the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to conduct further investigation," said ATM Mohib Ullah, public prosecutor of the District and Sessions Judge's Court.

Contacted, Jalal Ahmed, superintendent of police of Noakhali CID, also the investigation officer, told over mobile, "The accused had been identified through the video footage. The opinion of the legal experts has been sought for making them accused for the second time."

# 15 injured in Faridpur clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Fifteen people were injured and 10 houses got damaged as two groups of people locked in a clash at Kashimabad village of Faridpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

There was a longstanding conflict between Abdul Malek, a former UP member and Siddikur Rahman and Jahangir Hossain over establishing supremacy in the locality, locals said.

Malek had an altercation with Siddikur and Jahangir at Rajonar Dokan Moar around 7:00pm on Saturday.

Afterwards, the supporters of Siddikur and Jahangir beat Malek's brother.

As a sequel to the incident, the rivals locked in a clash, leaving 15 people of the two groups injured.

Ten houses of people belonging of Abdul Malek group were damaged.

# Snatchers kill driver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An easy bike driver was found murdered in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat yesterday.

The deceased was Dulal Hossain, 28, son of Samidul Islam of Oparicha village in Badalgachhi upazila of Naogaon.

Police found his vehicle missing.

Quoting family members, Md Monirul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Akkelpur Police Station, said Dulal went out of home with his easy bike on Saturday afternoon. Since then he remained missing.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the area in the morning.

Police suspect that criminals took away his vehicle after killing him.



Kachua Khal in Muktagachha upazila of Mymensingh has become narrow due to land grabbing, resulting in waterlogging in the areas around it.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Narrow Kachua Khal

Farmers in Muktagachha happy at initiatives for re-excavation of the canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Thousands of farmers in Muktagachha upazila are happy as initiatives have been taken to re-excavate the Kachua Khal, a local canal that has become almost dead due to land grabbing.

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) will re-excavate the three-kilometre canal under Minor Irrigation Development Project for Mymensingh Division and Tangail and Kishoreganj of Dhaka Division.

The canal is an outlet to the local Sutia river for water coming from different areas during the rainy season. It has been grabbed by influential local people over the years, locals alleged.

Tara Mia, a farmer of Sonargaon village,

told this correspondent that they could not harvest their Boro crop this year due to waterlogging in the area. Farmers Yunus Ali, Kader Mia and Dulal also expressed their unhappiness about the loss in the Boro season this year.

"We could not transplant Aman in the adjacent low-lying areas this season and the menace has become more serious in the last 10 years," they said.

Farmers will be benefitted round the year as different crops and vegetables will be saved from waterlogging if the canal is re-excavated, said Kashimpur Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Iftekhar Rasul Chowdhury Sumon.

Boro and Aman cultivation on around 800 acres of land is being disrupted due to waterlogging in the area, he said.

The canal was excavated in the 1980's but became filled up with sand over the years, making it narrow, said UP Member Amzad Hossain.

"Taking advantage of the situation, the grabbers became active over the years, but we have convinced them to free the grabbed land for re-excavation of the canal," the members said.

Around 15,000 farmers in 20 villages, including Berulia, Nimuria, Suhila, Palgaon Sonargaon and Paipara, have been the worst sufferers due to waterlogging for years together, Amzad said.

They urged the authorities concerned several times to take steps to solve the longstanding problem, but nothing was done, the member said, adding that they

are happy about the initiative taken by BADC to re-excavate the canal.

High officials of BADC visited the areas and exchanged views with the effected farmers on July 23. The officials said the canal would be re-excavated considering the prevailing waterlogging in the area and the work will start in October this year, said Project Director Md Badrul Alam.

The re-excavation work will take three months to complete, he said.

Ministry of Agriculture Joint Secretary Md Abdul Jalil, BADC Chief Engineer Ferdousur Rahman, Superintendent Engineer Md Mahmudul Hasan and Executive Engineer Mizanur Rahman were present, among others.

# 3 JMB men arrested in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three alleged members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Gheon village in Nachole upazila on Saturday.

They also recovered some jihadi books from their possession, said Additional Superintendent of Police Abu Khayer, deputy company commander of Chapainawabganj Rab camp.

The arrestees are Nazrul Islam, 50, son of Jaher Uddin of Raghobpur village, Abu Bakkar, 38, son of Fazlur Rahman of Raghobpur-Dakhhinpara village and Selim Reza, 25, son of Golam Rabbani of Trimohoni village in Shibganj upazila.

# Silver ornaments, phensidyl seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized silver ornaments and phensidyl syrup from Amrakhali area in Benapole yesterday.

BGB-49 Commanding Officer Lt Col Ariful Haque said, acting on a tip-off, a BGB team conducted a drive in the area in the morning and seized four kg silver and 560 bottles of phensidyl. The value of the seized goods is around Tk 8.15 lakh.

However, no one was arrested in this connection, he added.

A case was filed with Benapole Port Police Station.